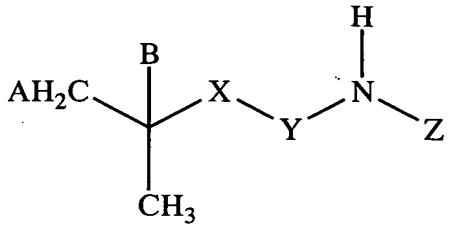


wherein A = H, CH_3 or OH,

B = H, OH, or CH_3,

X = CH_2, $CHCH_3$, $C(CH_3)_2$, -O-, CH(OH)-, or $-CH_2O-$,

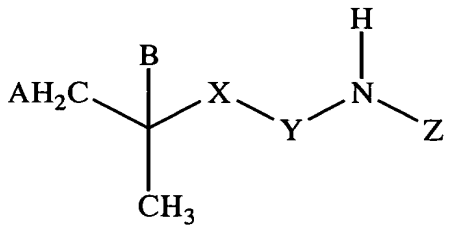
Y = -CO-, or $-SO_2-$, and

Z = H, CH_2CO_2H, or CH_2CONH_2,

and a compound selected from the group consisting of 2-methylisovaleramide, 3-methylisovaleramide, 2,2-dimethylisovaleramide, 2,3-dimethylisovaleramide, 4-methylisovaleramide, 2,4-dimethylisovaleramide, 3,4-dimethylisovaleramide, 2,2,4-trimethylisovaleramide, 3-hydroxyisovaleramide, 4-hydroxyisovaleramide, 4-hydroxy-3-methyl-isovaleramide, 2-hydroxyisovaleramide, N-(2-acetamido)isovaleramide, 2-methyl-1-propyl sulfonamide, 1-methylethyl sulfamate, 2-methyl-1-propyl sulfamate, isopropyl carbamate, and isobutylcarbamate.

19. (Once Amended) A process for preparing a sustained-release pharmaceutical composition which contains a therapeutically effective amount of an active compound, comprising mixing together a therapeutically effective amount of an active compound with one or more substances that act to sustain release of the compound, wherein the active compound is selected from the group consisting of:

isovaleric acid, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of isovaleric acid, a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of isovaleric acid, isovaleramide, an active compound having the structure:



wherein A = H, CH_3 or OH,

B = H, OH, or CH_3,

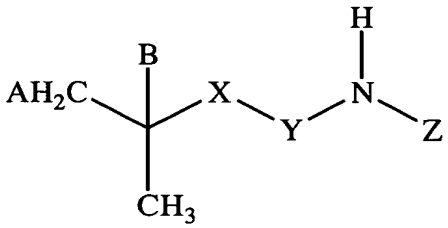
X = CH_2, $CHCH_3$, $C(CH_3)_2$, -O-, CH(OH)-, or $-CH_2O-$,

Y = -CO-, or $-SO_2-$, and

Z = H, CH_2CO_2H, or CH_2CONH_2,

and a compound selected from the group consisting of 2-methylisovaleramide, 3-methylisovaleramide, 2,2-dimethylisovaleramide, 2,3-dimethylisovaleramide, 4-methylisovaleramide, 2,4-dimethylisovaleramide, 3,4-dimethylisovaleramide, 2,2,4-trimethylisovaleramide, 3-hydroxyisovaleramide, 4-hydroxyisovaleramide, 4-hydroxy-3-methyl-isovaleramide, 2-hydroxyisovaleramide, N-(2-acetamido)isovaleramide, 2-methyl-1-propyl sulfonamide, 1-methylethyl sulfamate, 2-methyl-1-propyl sulfamate, isopropyl carbamate, and isobutylcarbamate, with the proviso that the treated pathology is not convulsions when the compound is 3-methylisovaleramide, isopropyl carbamate, or isobutyl carbamate.

24. (Once Amended) A method of treating a pathology that is ameliorated by a modulation of CNS activity, comprising administering to a patient suffering from said pathology a pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a sustained-release formulation, wherein the active compound is selected from the group consisting of: isovaleric acid, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of isovaleric acid, a pharmaceutically acceptable ester of isovaleric acid, isovaleramide, an active compound having the structure:



wherein A = H, CH_3 or OH,

B = H, OH, or CH_3,

X = CH_2, $CHCH_3$, $C(CH_3)_2$, -O-, CH(OH)-, or $-CH_2O-$,

Y = -CO-, or $-SO_2-$, and

Z = H, CH_2CO_2H, or CH_2CONH_2,

and a compound selected from the group consisting of 2-methylisovaleramide, 3-methylisovaleramide, 2,2-dimethylisovaleramide, 2,3-dimethylisovaleramide, 4-methylisovaleramide, 2,4-dimethylisovaleramide, 3,4-dimethylisovaleramide, 2,2,4-trimethylisovaleramide, 3-hydroxyisovaleramide, 4-hydroxyisovaleramide, 4-hydroxy-3-methyl-isovaleramide, 2-hydroxyisovaleramide, N-(2-acetamido)isovaleramide, 2-methyl-1-propyl sulfonamide, 1-methylethyl sulfamate, 2-methyl-1-propyl sulfamate, isopropyl carbamate, and isobutylcarbamate, with the proviso that the treated pathology is not convulsions when the compound is 3-methylisovaleramide, isopropyl carbamate, or isobutyl carbamate.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons which follow.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-34 are now pending in this application.

I. The Rejection over Balandrin *et al.* in view of Rork *et al.* and *Vice Versa*

Claims 1-5, 7-11, 14-20, 22-27, and 29-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Rork *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,582,838, in view of Balandrin *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,506,268, and *vice versa*.